

themselves, Well, we don't see the jobs in that agenda. We do see the agenda in that agenda. We do see the politics in that agenda. In any event, I am pleased, as I said at the outset, that we do have a jobs bill that I think will have an impact coming to the floor this coming week, the patent reform bill, which I think is essential.

As it relates to the precluding of America's defaulting on the obligations it has incurred, I appreciate what the gentleman has to say, but, of course, the rating agencies, three agencies now, which have said we stand at risk of losing our AAA rating, which America has always had, does not distinguish between how we get to where we have a vote of approval on allowing America to pay its bills.

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I, too, like the gentleman from Virginia, want to reach an agreement on the reduction of the deficit and the substantial reduction of the debt. The gentleman indicates he wants to cut spending by trillions. However, as we all know—and I've repeated—the gentleman voted for a rules package the first day of this session which provides for \$4.8 trillion in additional deficit without paying for it. That is the continuation of taxes while not cutting the spending by that amount.

You precluded our continuing to provide for statutory PAYGO applying to revenues as well as expenditures. Both obviously have an impact on the deficit that we incur. We incurred substantial expense during the Bush administration, as you know, some almost \$3.5 trillion of deficit spending, or \$2.5 trillion depending upon where you count some of the expenditures; but in any event, it's a minimum of \$2.5 trillion which we didn't pay for, and we therefore increased the debt by 86 percent in those 8 years of the Bush administration.

Both of us agree that we have to abandon policies of buying things without paying for them and of spending beyond our means. I would hope that we could join together in accomplishing that objective. Literally, we have less than 21 days of legislative time remaining before August 2, whether or not we can reach agreement, and I hope we can reach agreement. Surely, I would hope the gentleman would agree that allowing America to default on its bills is not an acceptable alternative even if we can't get to agreement. We want to get to agreement. I want to work with the gentleman to get to agreement, but allowing America to default on its bills should not be an option.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

I will just underscore the sense that the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, says that the markets are watching. I believe that is the case. I also believe the markets are looking for us to enact real reforms, real spending reductions. So by just acting to increase the credit limit of this country without following

through on our commitment for spending cuts and reform is just checking the box and is reckless.

That's why I say to the gentleman it is important for us to come together, to walk together, to make sure that we are able to execute on a plan to reduce spending once and for all and to reform this system here in Washington so that the markets understand we mean what we say. It's time for us to make the tough decisions now and not to just stall and say we'll do it later. The people of this country have seen that over and over again, and they're tired of it.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Tough decisions, however, are not to pretend there's a free lunch. What we buy, we need to pay for, and if we don't want to pay for it, we shouldn't buy it. Now, frankly, that didn't happen under each one of the budgets that we adopted from 2001 to 2008, the 2009 budget. It didn't happen. We spent far beyond that which we paid for in those budgets, and that took a \$5.6 trillion surplus projection to an almost 100 percent turnaround and an over \$10 trillion projected deficit.

I'll just say to the gentleman, I agree with you. We need to make the tough decisions. We may need to make the tough decisions on cutting spending. We need to make the tough decisions on paying for what we buy. Hopefully, we will have the courage and the wisdom on both sides of the aisle to do just that.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

I hope we also have the courage and the wisdom to focus on what it is the people sent us here to do. They sent us here to focus on jobs and the economy. Yes, we take seriously our responsibility to get the fiscal house in order; but if the priority is about jobs, we know jobs don't come from government programs overall; they come from the private sector. Over half the people in this country work for small businesses. The number of small business startups in this country has been anemic of late. We've got to focus on that and ensure that we are responding to what people want. That is, they want more growth in this economy, and they want to get back to work. That should be our goal.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I agree with him.

What they need is confidence in the management at the Federal level of the finances of our Nation. They had that confidence in the nineties when we had balanced budgets. They did not have that confidence in the last decade, and our economy shows the result. I certainly share the gentleman's view that, if we can give them that confidence, our economy will grow, and jobs will be created. I'm for working together to accomplish that objective.

I yield back the balance of my time.

RE&EE EXPO AND FORUM

(Mr. BARTLETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, today is the 14th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo and Forum going on until 4:30 p.m. in the Cannon Caucus room. The theme of this year's expo is "Efficiency + Renewables = Economic and National Security." There are 57 exhibitors, including the United States Air Force. They all have displays.

I encourage everyone to go and see the expo before you leave for the day.

In addition to the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucuses, we partnered in hosting with the Sustainable Energy Coalition and its sister caucuses: the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, the House Algae Energy Caucus, the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus, the House High Performance Building Caucus, the Green Jobs Caucus, as well as the Congressional Peak Oil Caucus, and the Oil and National Security Caucus.

I want to give special thanks to my colleague from Maryland, Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, who is the veteran co-chair of the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, and Ken Bossong. This event would not have been possible without the efforts of Mr. Bossong and the Sustainable Energy Coalition.

Please go to the Cannon Caucus, and see the great exhibits there—57 exhibitors, including the United States Air Force.

HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTER SCOTT DAVIS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay a debt of gratitude to a life of service and sacrifice by one of Indiana's bravest.

Scott Davis of Muncie, Indiana, was a devoted husband, father and a firefighter. A former Yorktown fire chief, he'd been with the Muncie Fire Department since the 15th of June 2005.

Tragically, yesterday, Firefighter Scott Davis was killed while fighting a fire at the Tabernacle of Praise Church in Muncie, Indiana. He would become the first Muncie firefighter to give his life in the line of duty since 1955.

Those who knew Scott Davis were not surprised at the boldness and bravery that he displayed in the Tabernacle of Praise fire, where he fell. He bravely sacrificed his life protecting the community, and in so doing, Scott Davis will forever be remembered as a hero and as a servant leader. In the midst of this great tragedy, I honor Firefighter Scott Davis.

We should also take a moment to remember each and every man and woman who serve and volunteer full time in fire departments around this country. We should always remember